

Message Text

SECRET

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, US, IS, JO

SUBJ: WADI ARABA AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

REF: AMMAN 3732

1. EXCHANGE OF HYDROLOGICAL DATA ON WADI ARABA REGION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN STRIKES ME ALSO AS USEFUL ELEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT OF A COOPERATIVE JORDANIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP. I RECALL THAT ISRAEL TOOK GREAT INTEREST IN SPRING OF LAST YEAR IN JORDANIAN PLAN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF GHOR VALLEY AREA AND RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES THERE. ISRAELI REACTION AT THAT TIME WAS THAT JORDANIAN PLAN WAS CONCRETE INDICATION OF JORDAN'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS.

2. FROM POLITICAL VIEWPOINT, I BELIEVE THAT GOI WOULD VIEW WADI ARABA HYDROLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN SIMILAR LIGHT, ESPECIALLY IF IT INVOLVED SHARING OF INFORMATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN. THIS OF COURSE WOULD BE USEFUL FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW IF IT LED TO THE NURTURING OF CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

3. SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE, THEREFORE, I WOULD RECOMMEND RAISING IN GENERAL TERMS CROWN PRINCE HASSAN'S INTEREST IN OBTAINING ISRAELI HYDROLOGICAL DATA AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

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